

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 3-7 and 51-53 have been amended, new claims 70-73 have been added, and claims 1, 2, 8-50 and 54-69 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10-14, 16, 17, 19-22, 25-48, 55-56, 58-60 and 63-69 will be filed in continuation applications.

Claims 3-7, 51-53 and 70-73 are pending and under consideration.

Although some of the following claims have been canceled, they may also be included in continuation applications. Claims 29-48 and 66-69 have been allowed and claims 3, 4, 19, 20, 35, 36, 51, 52, 58, 59, 63 and 64 have been indicated as including allowable subject matter. Therefore, claims 3, 4, 51 and 52 have been amended in the present application to include allowable subject matter, thereby placing them in allowable condition. Similarly, claims 19, 20, 35, 36, 58, 59, 63 and 64 have also been introduced in continuation applications, including allowable subject matter. Therefore, with all pending independent claims in allowable condition, the dependent claims thereof are similarly in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

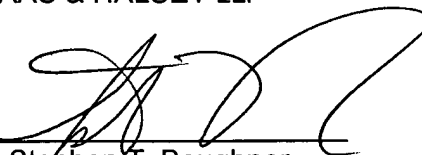
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

2/13/04

By:



Stephen T. Boughner
Registration No. 45,317

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501